From: Nancy Gold
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: Hewlett-Packard Issue
Date: Sunday, April 22, 2018 1:01:59 AM

Dear Councilor Simmons,

I have been proud to be a Cambridge resident for exactly 20 years, since Cambridge is clearly a city that cares about human rights, as I know you do personally. As you know, sometime in the next couple of weeks, the City Council will be taking up the issue of Hewlett-Packard. You will see me testifying at that meeting because I feel very strongly about this issue, being Jewish and having visited the West Bank of Palestine in 2014.

Today I am incensed at the content of a mass mailing, which I assume all Cambridge residents are getting, phrased in such a way as to make people who are unfamiliar with the issue believe that BDS is bad. It urges people to call the City Council and "tell [the City Councilors] to *reject hate*." The fact is that Palestinians are suffering every day and that BDS is one of the few non-violent methods of protest against the daily life of cruelties under the Israeli occupation. And one more detail about the mass mailing: residents are told to "contact *our* City Council." "*Our*" City Council! But the mailing comes from a Los Angeles lobbying group, Israeli-American Coalition for Action, which in 2017 spent over half a million dollars on its lobbying activities.

As you probably know, Cambridge was in the vanguard of using consumer boycott against South African apartheid when in 1970 a boycott was organized against Polaroid, which profited from the passbooks that black South Africans were forced to show at checkpoints.

I urge you to please vote your conscience and progressive values when this issue comes to a vote and vote for justice and reject a politically expedient vote. It's really very simple: Cambridge should not buy products from companies that support oppression.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gold
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